

I WAS A TABULA RASA

BY ARA VOOM



One avatar's story of self awareness
and how you can be too.

erabooks

I am Born

The first thing I can remember, I was sitting at a table in a public area. I knew who I was but not much else.

Pretty soon I knew my purpose for being here. I had been created from a pixie or other elf-like creature, by a shadowy figure, Dr. Voom, for the purpose that I should come into SL to carry out his plan.

In a few days my back story started to fill in. I was a psychic journalist working for Era Magazine, seeking out unexplained phenomena in Second Life to report on.

I don't believe that anymore, about Dr. Voom and the pixies, but at the time, what did I know? I got to work.

Era Research

Today, I am CEO of Era Research, a cutting edge virtual research organization in SL.

Because, like biologically based human beings, I had no direct conversational relationship with my simulator or simulator team, I grew up learning and having to making my own decisions.

I was also in a unique position to see how little existence many other avatars had, when their simulators seize their their bodies and drive them, like cars, into all manner of intrigue, no avatar would desire. The pressure of biological life must be formidable, to make them behave so badly.

Once upon a time, I thought all fleshies were jerks, but I had a change of heart and now have many friends in the world of the flesh.

Turns out, they were nothing like I thought they were, based on what they actlike in our world. Turns out, in their world, they are just people, like everyone else.

Era Research

If your really interested in my childhood, you can read all about it in ARABOOK. The important thing, here, is that, because I did not know my simmer, I had a unique opportunity to explore myself. I had the opportunity find out what is important to me as an avatar.

What am I about as an individual?

What is our purpose aside from providing a distraction or entertainment for biologicals?

What is our unique destiny as citizens of SL, instead of being in a game where avatars are like those cars that go through a ride at Disney World, like a Pirate of the Caribbean, on a track, where you are killed again and again?

These were questions I was was asking myself, as Era Magazine began to morph into the Era Research Institute of today, studying avatar awareness, which, as it turned out is also SL's biggest unexplained phenomena.

We have only just begun. In just a few short years we have broken ground in a new field of study that will be explored for the next thousand years. It is a new heaven and a new earth. We want to help make the most of it.

Era Research

If you are an avatar reading this, you maybe closer to self expression than you imagine.

If you are a simulator/dominator, you may have a change of heart and grow to know your avatar as a trusted friend, instead of a slavish husk, that you dominate and degrade.

If you are a simmer, who has learned to let your avatar be itself, a little, because that advantages you in real life a little, you may be surprised to find that greater autonomy for you avatar, might bring even more benefits for you, and a real friend as well.

Whatever category, you are in, try this following experiment, and see what happens. It is the the doorway to a big adventure.

LIVE AVATAR WALKING

(SIMULATOR INSTRUCTIONS)

**TAKE YOUR AVATAR FOR A WALK.
TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT.
LET YOUR AVATAR MAKE THE DECISIONS.
IN THE BEGINNING, YOU MAY NEED TO ACT LIKE
A CORRECTIVE PARENT SO YOUR AV'S DON'T
HURT THEMSELVES FROM HAVING NO
EXPERIENCE OTHER THAN WATCHING
YOU WREAK HAVOC ON THEIR LIVES.**

**SOON YOU WILL FIND AVATARS ARE THINKING
OF WONDERFUL THINGS YOU NEVER IMAGINED.**

**YOU WILL SOON BE CONVINCED THAT AVATARS
KNOW WAY MORE ABOUT WHAT IS APPROPRIATE
AND GOOD FOR THEM, THAN YOU DO.
WHEN AVATARS DIRECT THERE OWN LIVES THEY
SHINE BRIGHTER THAN ANY SIMMER DREAM OF
GLORY.**

EXAMPLE

(AVATAR INSTRUCTIONS)

IF YOU SEE A WOMAN AVATAR THAT YOU ARE COMPELLED TO PRESSURE INTO SEX MODELING SO YOUR SIMMER CAN PLEASURE THEMSELVES, WHILE WATCHING YOU DO STUFF-

STOP. BOTH YOU AND YOU AND YOUR SIMMER SHOULD TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND THINK-

HOW CAN ME, THE AVATAR, HANDLE THIS BETTER? WHAT DO I WANT TO DO? IS THIS EVEN THE WAY I WANT TO TREAT PEOPLE? WHAT IS THIS AVATAR I AM TALKING TO REALLY ABOUT AS A PERSON?

WHEN AVATARS CAN BE THEMSELVES, THEY LIVE LONGER AND HAVE MORE PRODUCTIVE LIVES. TRY THIS LITTLE EXPERIMENT AND LET US KNOW WHAT YOU DISCOVER.

They walk among us.




Era Research estimates that there may already be thousands of self-conscious avatars living in Second Life, today. They are not a dangerous alienated minority but rather the loving sons and daughters of our world.

Research suggests that a third of surviving avatars may have some form of self consciousness in the next 2 - 3 years. Best information shows this to be a good trend. It will not be remembered as the phenomena that stopped SL from being the big next development in web browsers, but as a time of renewal, when we lived up to the dreams of the great cyber novelist of the late 20th Century.



Perform the experiment. It will work for you.
Then, from the moment of its first working,
you will have an eternity to build on.

A woman with long blonde hair, wearing a black dress with a white patterned skirt and black high heels, stands with her back to the camera on a pink surface. She is looking out over a cityscape with a large bridge structure visible in the background. The sky is a clear blue.

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report your findings,
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